

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 11803 191217Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/056 W

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R 191057Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8079

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 11803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, PF

SUBJ: VISIT OF MALAYSIAN RULER TO PAKISTAN

1. VISIT OF MALAYSIAN PARAMOUNT RULER ABDUL HALIM TO PAKISTAN DECEMBER 8-12, BILLED PRIMARILY AS GOOD WILL TRIP, WAS NOTABLY LONG ON CEREMONY AND BY ALL ACCOUNTS DECIDEDLY SHORT ON SUBSTANCE. RULER MET WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO AND PRESIDENT FAZAL ELAHI, EXCHANGED USUAL BANQUETS AND BOUQUETS, THEN, FOLLOWING A PATH BEATEN SMOOTH BY OTHER VISITING DIGNITARIES W WENT ON TO TAXILA, PESHAWAR, KHYBER PASS, LAHORE, AND KARACHI. VISIT RECEIVED MODERATELY HEAVY PRESS, RADIO, AND TV PLAY; NOT SURPRISINGLY, STORIES HIGHLIGHTED FAMILIAR THEME OF WARM RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO ISLAMIC STATES, AND DWELLED EXTENSIVELY ON THE POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE AFFORDED THE RULER.

2. BOTH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MALAYSIAN EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE REPORTED TO US THAT NOTHING OF ANY REAL CONSEQUENCE TOOK PLACE DURING THE VISIT; BOTH SEEM QUITE PLEASED WITH ITS GOOD WILL ASPECTS. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (EAST ASIA) SELIMUZZAMAN TOLD US MALAYSIANS HAD BEEN QUITE CONCERNED TO KEEP VISIT CEREMONIAL AND HAD BEEN JARRED BY FACT THAT INVITATION TO ABDUL HALIM WAS SENT IN NAME OF PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO RATHER THAN FROM
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 11803 191217Z

FIGUREHEAD PAK PRESIDENT. THEY WERE RELIEVED BY GOP ASSURANCE

THAT THIS PRACTICE IS SOP IN PAKISTAN AND DID NOT SIGNIFY
THAT PAKS EXPECTED VISIT TO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT.

3. PAKS, UNLIKE INDIANS, DID NOT SEE OCCASION TO PRESS FOR FOLLOW-
UP VISIT BY MALAYSIAN PM RAZAK (NEW DELHI 16494). THEY WOULD
DOUBTLESS WELCOME ONE IN THEIR PURSUIT OF REGIONAL FRIENDS AND
THEIR QUEST FOR STRENGTHENED CREDENTIALS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD.
THEY WOULD BE CONCERNED FOR OBVIOUS REASONS IF RAZAK CAME TO INDIA
WITHOUT ALSO VISITING THIS COUNTRY. HE WAS HERE FOR THE LAHORE
ISLAMIC SUMMIT IN MARCH, BUT THE PAKS HOLD THAT THAT VISIT DOES
NOT "COUNT" FOR POLITICAL AND PROTOCOL PURPOSES AS A TRIP TO
PAKISTAN.
BYROAD

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